

Interviewed by Kathleen Irving, 21 November 2003 at his home, 460 South 200 West.
Transcribed by Marilyn Hunting, January 2005

Kathleen Irving (KI): Tell me who your parents and siblings were.

Dan Price: Okay. My father's name was Absalom Price, he was born in Maeser, February 13, 1894. He grew up here and stayed here all his life.

KI: Why did his parents come here to begin with?

Dan: His father came here from Northern part of Utah [Cache Valley]. Came here, farmed, built a house and stayed here.

KI: He came here to homestead and get land?

Dan: Yes. In Maeser. They were here their whole life.

My Mother was born in Kamas, Utah. Her name is Mamie Arline Carpenter. Her father was in the lumber business in Kamas. He came here as a forest ranger for the Ashley National Forest. They built in Maeser. My mother was raised here in Vernal. That's how they got together.

KI: Did they go to school together?

Dan: No. But they did live in Maeser and became kind of close. I think Mother went to school in Kamas and then here. [She was five years old when she came to Vernal and started school in the old Central School]

KI: Did she go to the Uintah Academy?

Dan: Yes, She graduated but didn't go to college. My father didn't finish grade school. His father died when he was two years old; his step father had work for him to do and kept him busy during the school year. He didn't get much schooling in. Work was work.

I three other brothers and one sister. Shirley just old than I am, born in 1917 and I was born in 1919. My next brother, Boyd was born in 1923, Duane, my young brother was born in 1927 [1926]. Then my little sister was bornwhen? [Marilyn - February 1934] She is the only sister we had and she was spoiled. [Ha] We had a good life. Lived on a farm. Lived there all our life. Milked cows, had sheep, had pigs and did our own things.

KI: Where was the farm located?

Dan: Well, we share cropped a lot. I was born in Grandma Carpenter's place about ½ mile north of 3000 West. We lived in Bennett for a while then back to Vernal, we lived in several places. [Our dad built a home on 3 ½ acres in the Half Mile Lane.]

KI: Did you live any where near to where Elva Caldwell lived?

Dad: Not far, she lived about a ½ mile north of us. We knew them well. Went to church with them, Maeser Ward.

KI: How did you get to church?

Dan: Walked. We had a Model T Ford. When it would start, usually we walked. Wherever we were, whether it was a ½ mile or a mile or whatever. One time we lived on 3500 West just north of the Maeser Cemetery. We lived there for a while. That's where Shirley and I used to dig ditches to drown prairie dogs. We'd dig ditches and try to get water to run up hill and turn the water into their holes and then we'd see them come up somewhere else. It was just something to do, I guess. We ended up having a prairie dog for a pet for a long time. We got it when it was small and tamed it. It was cute and we had a lot of fun with it. It ate out of our hand, chased around with us.

KI: Tell me how they used do church when you were a kid? Did you go early in the morning and walk all that way and then come home and go back - how did that work?

Dan: Yes. Priesthood in the morning then Sunday School at 10:00 then we'd go home, then church at 7 or 7:30 at night. It was church all day long. Three trips to the church house. My mother was organist and sang in the choir. She never failed to be there whether she had to walk or not, she would get there.

KI: Tell me about going to school.

Dan: The same thing the school was right next to the church house. When we lived up on the hill we had a horse we would ride, my brother and I, we'd ride the horse to school and tie it up at the fence and it waited there till we got through and went home. A lot of times we walked.

I didn't like horses, I said just give me a bike. You always had to feed a horse and take care of it, but a bike you could just ride it up to the house and get off from it and you were through.

KI: Was it very easy to get hold of a bicycle then?

Dan: You couldn't get a bicycle. My first bike was, I think a 26 inch front wheel and the back wheel was 28 inches. It was an old peddler, but it did go.

KI: Do you remember who you got the bike from?

Dan: Gosh, I don't I probably just picked up and made - put it together.

KI: Tell me about the teachers you had in school.

Dan: I had some special teachers. First grade was Elsie McKee. She was a jewel, so kind and good to us. Second grade was Mazie Hall, Third grade was Lucille Johnson, Isabel taught the

first grade when they came. They came as sisters, black-headed, pretty girls. Isabel taught the first grade and Lucille taught the third grade. Fourth grade was Nellie Oaks [Merkely] Pearl Shaeffer was my fifth grade teacher. I guess, over all, I learned more from her than any of them. Because of the fact, I was little hellion, in a way. She would make us stay after school and learn poems, I learned Lady of the Lake and I'd have to recite it. I don't know how many poems I learn. She did a great job. Seventh grade was Thomas Caldwell, Karl Preece was the 8th grade teacher, he was the principle. All in Maeser, 1st Grade through eighth.

KI: Downstairs were the first four grades?

Dan: Upstairs was 5,6,7and 8th. We'd have to march down the stairs. We had discipline, which was good.

KI: What kind of things did you like to study.

Dan: I suppose math was my favorite. English I ---- I took it cause I had too. I don't know of any class that I disliked but math was my favorite.

KI: Did you have any special friends?

Dan: In grade school you always have special friends. DeNyle Williams. He was the one I had a real terrible experience with. I had a Model T Ford the first year in high school. A Model T. Ford and a rut. You know, you hit a rut and the car jumped and he was on the back and fell off. Hit his head and he didn't live. It was the catastrophe of my whole life.

Anyway, there was Garth Colton, Keith Bodily, Floyd Bingham, they were my closest friends when I was in grade school.

KI: What did you like to do for recess?

Dan: Play. Play ball. Play marbles. I played a lot of marbles when I was younger and won quite a few tournaments. You would make a big circle, maybe 3 foot in diameter or 4 foot. Set the marbles here and would shoot from out here on the line and shoot them out of the circle. Royal Allen, we'd walk home after school, and I'd get a beating every time I'd get home because, along the way, we'd lag marbles. We'd shoot marbles, I'd shoot at his marble then he'd shoot at my marble if I hit his marble then I'd take his marble and put in my pocket and he'd have to lay down another one. Then we'd shoot like that all the way home. I'd get home late, I never did learn my lesson. Late for getting my chores.

I played a lot of softball. No mitt, gosh, I'd come with banged up fingers. Horseshoes. We'd just make our own play.

KI: Did you have any playground equipment?

Dan: Swings, horseshoes. We'd get together and play spot ball, ball, just anything.

KI: What kind of lunch did you have?

Dan: We took our lunch. Sandwich and apple or something like that. After I'd get home I'd open a bottle of fruit something that Mother had canned and probably the whole thing. We didn't complain, it was just the way we lived.

KI: Did you eat in your classrooms?

Dan: No. We usually would go out under a bush, out on the lawn, or some place like that. In the winter we ate inside and sat around with tables and benches

KI: How did they heat the building?

Dan: It was coal. In the Maeser School we had those hot water tanks in each of the rooms. They heated the water and circulated it. [Steam radiators]

KI: No pot-bellied stoves?

Dan: There were stove here and there. It wasn't heated all the way through. I remember a big grill in the floor that hot air came up through. We'd all stand over it when we got cold.

KI: Do you think the winters used to be colder than they are now?

Dan: Yes. At least we had more snow. I remember a thing that used to happen, it seemed like every Christmas morning, we'd get up and Dad would through us out the back door in the snow. That was just something he did for fun. Usually a foot or foot and a half of snow out in the yard. We don't have that anymore.

KI: What kind of chores did you have?

Dan: I hated them. We milked, we cleaned corrals, fed sheep, fed pigs, fed chickens. Did all those things you do on a farm. We were self-sufficient. We raised our own food.

KI: Is that mostly what your parents did was just be self-sufficient? Did he sell any crops or anything to get money?

Dan: Dad was a farmer. No he just raised them for himself. Milk [and eggs] was about the only thing we sold and sometimes \$3.50 was the amount of cash we'd have in our house in a week. It was hard to believe.

My mother was a tithe payer. She'd take .35 and divide it between - maybe Dad would take .08, Shirley .07 me .06, whatever. Can you imagine the bishop writing out all those receipts? She paid that tithing up to the last minute. In fact, when she died she had some sat apart and instructed Shirley, the last thing, she said you be sure and get that tithing to get that to the bishop [before the funeral]

We lost her when she was only 39 years old. She just didn't even begin to have life. She worked hard. Dad worked away a lot at part time jobs, digging canals and working out assessments on the water. He'd be away. Mother would plant the garden, have to go to the ditch and the get water down to water the garden. Pick, and can the vegetables. I just marvel what our

parents went through to give us what we have today.

KI: Did she die of a disease?

Dan: Yes she had Bright's Disease. That's nephritis. Now they transplant a kidney or dialysis, but then there was nothing they could do but put up with it till you died.

KI: Did your dad remarry?

Dan: He did after 14 years. [12 years] Of course there was no more children. Mother did have a still born between the last two children. That was just through work, the way she lost that.

KI: You didn't have water in your house, you had to carry water?

Dan: Yes. We carried water on a 55 gallon barrel that we had on a slip. We would go to the canal and load it up with water and bring it back and keep the reservoir on the stove full and have hot water that way. Course with the stove going all the time we had hot water and we'd go dip it out and put in the dishpan.....those were the days.....outside John.

KI: How was bath time?

Dan: Cold in the wintertime. One experience I had, you know how kids fiddle around with cedar bark cigarettes? Anyway I was rolling ---- we had just got us a different john, it had vents in it and was really nice, compared to what he had had. I was out there and Mother said, son, are you about through, I need to go. I said ya, I'm coming. She said have you been smoking? I said no, not me. I looked back and the smoke was just a coming out of those vents. Caught right in the middle.

KI: Do you remember any pets before that prairie dog.

Dan: We had cats, always had a dog, always had a dog, talk about a true friend, a dog was it. Yes we had pets.

KI: What do you remember with the Maeser Corner area? Did Mrs. Rudge have a store when you were there?

Dan: Yes. Mrs. Rudge was from England, she was a special person. She had a parrot, some of the young kids, and others, would teach that parrot to say mean and dirty things. At times you would go in there and the parrot would say "Come in son-of-a-bitch, come in son-of-a-bitch." She always kept that parrot there.

When my dad would kill a pig he'd take the leaf fat from around the heart and give it to Mrs. Rudge and the liver and the heart and she would make up a dish from that and wrap it in that leaf fat, she would make that and bring us some back. She was so good.

KI: Was there any other business there?

Dan: Gosh, I think she was the only - she had the gas station, and the store, I think that was the only store when I was a kid. That was on the northwest side of the intersection.

KI: Do you remember anybody else being up there after she came back down town?

Dan: Yes, she came back down town and she drove till I don't know how long. They would say oh, that's Mrs. Rudge, let her go through. She would go through stop signs and all. We all just watched out for her. Then she had Cassy and her brother, can't remember his name, Cassy was her sister-in-law. They were funny little English people. [they came from England]

Mrs. Rudge's husband, I don't remember much about him, I think he just sat in the back and she ran the business and ran the store.

KI: Tell me when you finished school in Maeser, how did you get down to high school? And you went to the Uintah High that was there by the swimming pool?

Dan: Yes, where the swimming pool is now, that was the old high school. We had a bus. It was a Dryfork bus. It would come through Dryfork, down through Maeser and on to town. Then a little later on there was a Lapoint bus that used to come from Lapoint, straight down through and pick us up. The Dryfork bus was the first one.

I was in a lot of plays and extracurricular things. The bus leaves when school is out and goes home. There would be play practice after that and I would have to walk home, three miles. One experience I had that almost cost me my life. It was cold and I had just a light sweater on. I walked along 5th west north to the turn to go to Maeser (5th North) I got real cold then I got real warm and comfortable, I was walking along and ran into a mailbox. This is what happens when you do freeze to death. You do get warm. That kind of jolted me and I realized that I was cold rather than warm. I started to jump up and down and swing my arms and hurry right along. I had to walk all the way, no cars came along. I got home, I was so blasted cold. It was really something that I ran into that mailbox.

KI: What kind of plays were you in?

Dan: Tweedles, Skidding, high school plays. We took 2 or 3 of them to Provo for invitational meets. Each one of our plays we got superior ratings and that ticked us.

KI: When you took them to Provo, that would have been for the whole state competition not just a region.

Dan: Yes, that was the whole state. They never gave you first, second or third, it was always superior or whatever. It was fun.

I was on the type team and the track team. I did everything.

KI: Who was your type teacher?

Dan: Ralph Siddoway.

KI: Stella Oaks came after.

Dan: Yes, Stella came after. I had a lot of fun. Barney D. White was the drama teacher. I was always the old man. He said, Dan, you're the easiest guy I've ever made up for an old man. You've already got the wrinkles. I think I have had these since day one.

KI: When you were in school did they have, was it called the LaMasque Club?

Dan: Yes, LaMasque Club. As boys we got busy and had cheer leaders. I was a cheer leader, with just boys doing it.

KI: Did you play organized sports?

Dan: Yes. We a track team, I ran the quarter mile and I ran on the mile relay. We would go to Price for an invitation and whoever won there would go to Provo for the State Meet. We traveled by regular school bus. We went over Indian Canyon, down into Price. Then go to Provo for the invitational. That was a big deal for us in those days.

We didn't have football when I went to school. We had this 6 man touch type of thing. We didn't really have football. Basketball - the year after I graduated they won state, 1939.

KI: Ken Sowards told me about that. He played on that team.

Dan: Clara's brother Reed, was on the team. That was when state was state, there was no regional, no division, it was just the best one take it.

KI: Did you still enjoy math in high school?

Dan: Yes. I took commercial arithmetic and all the math I could take. I still enjoy math.

KI: Tell me what it like living through the Depression years.

Dan: The Depression was hard. It was to a point where only one person in a household could work. Mother was sick at that time and Dad had to stay kind of close so Shirley, my older brother, took the job. He went here and there to bring a little money in.

KI: Who did he work for then.

Dan: I don't know if it was state or WPA project. It was one of those projects. My dad had some cattle and he had to go out and shoot so many of them. They gave him \$10.00 a head or something. That was sure hard to do that.

KI: Why did they do that?

Dan: I don't know exactly why. Clara's folks had to do that and they ran cattle, they were hurt really bad. We just didn't have anything - eggs .10 a dozen. We'd trade eggs for things. There was no money. We used to take grain down to the mill and have it ground into bran to feed the

cattle and pigs. We'd always have some wheat ground up into germade. That was what we lived on for cereal. That was hard times.

We would go down to Calder's Creamery cut up blocks of ice, take it home and put it under the grain. We would treat hams with Morton's salt and get them so blasted salty then bury them in the grain also. Then when we wanted some we would go dig it out and parboil it because it was so salty. That was the only way we could do it.

KI: I guess you have to feel lucky that you were living on a farm at the time and not in a big city.

Dan: Those that lived in the city must have suffered terribly. But on the farm you just had it.

What I was going to tell you about this grain we took down to the mill. They had pretty flour sacks with flowers on them and everything. Mother made our shirts and she would make shirts out of these pretty flowered flour sacks. We were pretty cool boys. We just wore what we had - hand-me-downs and trade me back and forth. I remember one time I was clear out of shoes and ended up wearing my mother's shoes, just to have something on my feet. They were kind of squared toes, semi-man and woman. I remember wearing her shoes to school because I didn't have a pair.

KI: How old were you when she died?

Dan: She died in 1934 [1936 - 15 years old] I was a Freshman in high school. They called us home. She was really bad and they called all of us kids home and we sat around the bed. One minute she would be ice cold and we would cover her up and the next minute she would be hot and we would get some cool water for her. We thought she was gone and a minute later she said I've seen Clyde and I'm ready to go. Clyde was nephew; he went away to school and when he would come home, while Mother was sick, he would borrow our car to go on a date Saturday night, then before he went back to school on Sunday, he would take Mother for a ride all around the valley, which she just loved. He did that several times and he died just about a month before Mother did. It gives the testimony in me, knowing that there has to be a here-after. She just passed away as pleasant as could be. Marilyn was just two years old. Her birthday was on the 4th of February. [Mother died on the 6th]. Everybody was so good - leaving a young family and all. She was buried in the Maeser Cemetery. Mother said she wanted to be buried underneath trees. I don't want to be out in the sun. So we bought the lot by the trees. My brother Boyd and his son [Dennis] is buried there too.

KI: You graduated from high school during the depression and the war hadn't started. What did you think you were going to do with yourself?

Dan: Well, I thought I've had all the school I want, so I worked on a farm.

KI: On your farm?

Dan: No. I started to work away from home when I was ten years old, working for Joe Hacking when I3 till was about 16 or 17. We'd do chores at home first then I'd go work up there all day long putting up hay and grain, plowing or anything like that. For .50 a day. Can you believe? I'd have between \$20 or \$21 - I'd make in the summer time. Enough for a pair of Levis, shirt, jacket

and a pair of shoes.

Just before I went to college I went to work on a farm over in Bennett for Johnny Haslem - over there by the Montez Creek Dam. I worked there for fifty dollars a month plus my board, boy I was in the bucks then. Then I went to school. Well, no, I came and worked as a cook at the confectionary. Right where the show house is now on the south side [of main street]. I cooked and from there I went to Utah Power and Light. That was in 1939. I worked up till May '39. I was cooking there and a couple of guys came up and interviewed me. It wasn't long till Clive Clark and another fellow from Utah Power and Light they called me in to take a typing test at the Utah Power and Light office, Rose Johnson was in the office. Anyway I started there on the 15 May 1939.

The office was about where Shris Anderson Jewelry Store is on Main Street. That was the old Power Company Office. Downstairs, they had all the electrical wire and the poles in the back - went out the back where they have a parking lot now. I worked there till 1943 and then I transferred to American Fork with Utah Power and Light.

KI: By this time you were married?

Dan: Yes, I was married on the first of May, 1939. Actually before I went to work for Utah Power and Light. I went from \$40.00 a month - cooking from seven at night to seven in the morning cooking in the Confectionary up to \$64.00 a month at the Power Company. I was really in the bucks. Then I transferred to American Fork as a Residential Meter Man. This was just when Geneva Steel was being built. I used to go down there with the Commercial Meter man and we'd check the meters there. I went from \$64 to \$120 a month.]\

One of the guys living in our same apartment was making a \$120 a week. He was one of the construction crew, a welder, I think. I thought well, I'll have my job from now on and he'll be out of a job in a month or two. What silly thinking. It lasted a long while.

KI: So you worked for Utah Power Light from 1939 to 1943?

Dan: I went to the Service in October 1943.

KI: Tell me about marrying Clara.

Dan: That is a long story. Roberta Cook got us started on a blind date, on a sleigh ride.

KI: How much younger than you is she?

Dan: She is three years younger than I am.

KI: So you didn't really know her to much in school?

Dan: No, she was in the 8th grade and I was in the upper classes.

Doug Noel and I, he used to live right here - he and I was good friends and were together. Roberta Cook said well, I know a girl. (Where Bishop Hadlock lives right now, that's where Roberta was born and raised; just south of the Temple on 5th West. The second house over.) Clara boarded just a couple of houses from there. She went over and got Clara and she sat

between us. It was snowing and I held the tarp up over Clara's head. Doug could see that he "lost out".

We went together off and on and had a good time, always went in groups. She was a real good friend to Helen Jones. All summer long Clara would be out to Willow Creek on the ranch and Helen would be over in Rio Blanco with her family and the sheep. So in the summer time they didn't have any friends but when they came back to school they would get together and they became good friends. And we did everything together.

Ray Evans, his dad had the bakery shop, the old Evans Bakery Shop, [on South Vernal Avenue] He went with Helen and I think they'd planned on getting married. I was working at the Confectionary. Anyway they said let's go to Craig. So all four of us went to Craig on this Sunday and had dinner. I had a tank of gas and just enough money to get back on and maybe have a meal. So they said, let's get married, okay, that sounds like a lot of fun.

We went riding around and went to the courthouse and the girls said okay, if you can get a license on Sunday we will marry you. You can not believe. We went to the courthouse and the clerk was there. We crawled through the window and went in and got the license. I didn't have enough money, I had to borrow some from Ray. The girls didn't sign, didn't do a darn thing. We said we were old enough and they were old enough.

KI: Were they?

Dan: No. Clara was just 16. I was 19. Anyway he sold us the license. We came out and said ya, ya. When they found out it was the truth, they were flabbergasted. Clara wanted to go on to school and they called her chicken and everything because she didn't want to. So we went to Judge Gibson, was his name, went to his home and he said I can't marry you until after midnight, it's Sunday and it's against the law. So we stuck around till midnight and they made Clara and I go first, because they thought we'd backout. We thought, what the heck, we'll just get it annulled. It will be simple to do because we aren't old enough. We went ahead and got married, then Ray and Helen got married after he did.

Meantime, I'd called up my boss and told him we had car trouble and can't make it home. I was due home to go to work at 7:00. I guess he took my place.

Anyway, we came home and thought, what are we going to do? We thought - I'll go down and talk to Wallace Calder, a lawyer. I told him I have a friend that got married and not old enough and they want to get it annulled. He said the well the first thing you have to do is tell your parents. Well, that's that last thing we wanted to do. We hum hawed around and wondered what in the devil we were going to do.

KI: Did you just bring her home from Craig and dropped her off at her house and you were married?

Dan: Yes, we were married. They lived up here in these little Cook Apartments, just south of the temple - those 3 little apartments. Well they lived there because Reed and Clara had to have a place to board - and her mother could stay there.

I was cooking from 7:00 at night till 7:00 in the morning and seven o'clock in the morning, she and I would walk and back and forth till her 9:00 school started. I stayed there and slept while she went to school and then we'd we walk from 3:00 till 7:00 when I had to go to work - wondered what to do.

In the meantime, Clelia Martinsen, Helen's sister, I guess, Helen had told Clelia that she was married and they had a little "ruffle" and Clelia told her dad that Helen had married Ray Evans. Mr. Jones didn't like Ray Evans and he said well, I'll go find out. So went right up to Ray Evan's place and was going to say, you scoundrel in the meantime, Clelia had told her boyfriend, Lynn Martinsen what had happened and Lynn went over and told Ray that Mr. Jones was coming up. Well, Ray had the licenses, so Ray went upstairs, got the licenses and he threw them down to Lynn to get rid of the licenses. Lynn didn't know what to do with them, so he brought them down to me, down to the Café. I was busy and I didn't know what to do with them, so I took them and put them in this ----Henry Slaugh was the owner and he had this roll-top desk - I put them in the desk and closed the top. He was gone home. Well, in a little while he came back. He lifted up this top and these licenses rolled out. He looked and said well-----he announced it to the whole place and the place was full.

Clara: I wasn't out of high school yet. You can see how I'd feel. I was a Junior in high school.

Dan: I signed her report card the last two years. They came to get me to cheverie us. [he was at work at the Confectionary] There was a dance on Saturday night at the Imperial Hall. They came to get me and I went in the "john" and locked myself in there.

KI: Where was Clara?

Dan: She was probably home. It was after 7:00. Maybe 9:00. There was a little hole about a foot square around in the back of the john, they put a little kid up through there and he unlocked the door. I was trapped and I had to come out. They got me and they got Clara, I can't remember all the particulars of how they got Ray and Helen but they got us together and they put me with Helen and Ray Clara and marched us up where the Confectionary was about 15 East Main, went up Main Street, walked down to the Imperial Hall, me with Helen and Ray with Clara. We got down to the Imperial Hall and they took the girls someplace and took Ray and I up through Maeser and threw us in the canal. Anyway we finally got back together. Well, the parents still didn't know. Her mother had false teeth and when she found out, they dropped. She and her dad were the closest of friends, he said, Sis, I didn't think you would do this to me. Cry and Cry.

My Dad still hadn't found out about it, he was the last one. He said, Son, I'm so sorry I had to be the last one to know. Anyway it happened. Her dad said well you're married now, your second hand, you've got to stay married. We'll do what we can to help you.

They had a shower for us and we brought all of our presents home with us in a number 2 tub - down here where the Golden Age Center is now, that used to be Vernal Second Ward Chapel. We still have some of the things.

Our first home was at Evert Alexander's place, 135 South 200 West, right on this same street. That was our first little apartment. I went to work and Clara went to school.

Then we ended going from there to 560 West Main, where Milt's store is, just west of that there was a home there. We lived there till I went to American Fork.

Helen Jones and Ray divorced and she married again and divorced and then she married a fellow from Colorado with cattle, he was well fixed. She ended up taking her life through an over dose of pills. She was as cute little thing.

Clara and I, the first of May will 65 years back of us. We have had a lot of fun and enjoyed one another.

KI: I read some articles about you before I came. One of the things said you went to school at BYU before you went to work for Utah Power and Light. Is that true, for one semester or something.

Dan: Lets see— Yes, I went to school two quarters then came home and started to work. Before I got married. I graduated in May 1938 then went to school in '38 and first part of January in '39. Then I went work at the Confectionary.

KI: How did you afford to go to school?

Dan: That was rough. I went out there – Dad didn't have any money to help me. I said I will go out and work my way through. I had a cooking class I took, so I had breakfast 3 times a week. Then I worked. All these parties that the wives had and the faculty parties - I had to wash these pots and pans, drag the food around. We walked about six blocks to get some milk. I had a room mate, I don't even remember who it was. It wasn't anyone from Vernal, I went alone.

During that time I hitched-hiked back and forth eight time to see the gal I loved.

KI: When did you decide you wanted to be a dentist?

Dan: We knew some friends when we were in American Fork, real special friends, in fact, she was

Gwen Wiscombe from over on the West Side. We knew her to start with. We become real good friends and he kept telling me, Dan, you need to go to school.

In the service I went up to Farragut, Idaho for the Navy to start with. I came home on leave and he said, what do you like to do? I said, well, I like to work with my hands. He said well what about dentistry, that's working with your hands.

He ended up in Iowa City on a scholarship or something, for teaching and was a brilliant guy. In the meantime, while I was in the service - when I got out ,he had me all registered and everything in Iowa City for Pre-Dent. So I came back in January, gee, it was hard. I went right from leaving Clara, wasn't even home two weeks. I had to go back there. I hitched hiked back to Iowa City and started school and she came a month or so later. I went to Iowa City and got my Pre-dent, from there I went to Western Reserve in Cleveland and finished my dental school.

KI: So you decided you liked it after you got involved with it?

Dan: Ya, there was no place for me to go. A fellow my age, married, I didn't have time to jump around. Yes, I enjoyed dentistry, it was a great move for me. I had Roy and Gwen Jones for helping me along the way, because he surely did. He as teaching in Iowa City and he me registered and ready to go. I went on the GI Bill. Which was nice, it really helped me. I finished in 1951.

If you keep your grades up in dental school the first two years you get your B. S. Degree, so I got my B.S. Degree and two years later I got my DDS Degree. I studied hard, I had too. There was no turning back, I made up my mind and I had to do it

I thought if I flunked out of dentistry I would go into chemistry and things like that. I didn't have to look back. Graduated with good grades and had a lot of fun doing it. [Ed. Something he didn't tell you was: to make ends meet while in Cleveland, he and Clara both, sold their blood as often as they could.]

KI: Let's back up and tell me about your experiences in the service. You were drafted?

Dan: Yes. My number came up and I went to the board and they asked me if I had a preference and I said yes, I want the Navy. I want a bed and I want to eat, that's what you get in the Navy. At least you were dry and had something to eat. In October 1943 I went to Farragut for my Basic Training. From Basics I went into radar. Went down to Point Loma in the San Diego area and studied radar. From there we went to Mare Island, near Oakland - San Francisco area, commissioned our ship, course I ended up - boy I don't want to stand those watches on this radar so I went into store keeping. That was a good move and kind of a silly move 'cause I ended up doing two things. I was store keeper and had the responsibility there. I made out the menu, this was the good thing about it, I got to go to all the different islands to get food and get supplies and get off the ship. A lot of the others never got off the ship. Then I would have to stand radar watch on top of that. That was alright, I didn't mind doing that, it kept me busy all the time. It was a good experience.

We traveled from ... I'll tell you a little about "shake down". It was just outside of San Francisco Bay, they say that is the roughest water any place in the world. 'Course that is what they want to do is give that old ship a chance for anything to go wrong with it now while it is close to home. Well in 3 days I lost 20 pounds. I was so sea sick. I would get back of the fantail and sit right in the middle of the ship, that was the least wobble. I got sick, sick. I did make it.

We went on to Honolulu, that were we got our training with the subs. This is what we did in the convoy, we searched for submarines and underground.

KI: That's what you did with the radar?

Dan: No. the radar was up here. The sonar gear was the thing that went down below. Radar was for land and air, ships and planes and things like that. We'd sit on this thing and the screen would go around and around and if it picked up something then we'd have to tell the distance and speed and so forth and go from there. We were in convoy all this time.

KI: What ship were you on?

Dan: Destroyer Escorts - USS Crowley 303. From there we went to Guadalcanal, to Tokyo, just kept hitting all those islands. The Solomon Islands, Okinawa, Saigon, Japan finally.

KI: What was it like being in battle?

Dan: We were there at Okinawa when they raised the Mt. Suribachi flag, remember that? We were in the bay then. The Japanese had these kamikaze planes that would fly real low and of course the harbor was just full of battleships, aircraft carriers, and everything like that. Actually, Red Cross ships, emergency ships and these planes would come low, of course, they didn't want us little ones but they used us as a shield, went over and would come down and land on these

aircraft carriers and battle wagons.

This same day there was a CVE which was a converted cruiser to a aircraft carrier and this plane hit right smack in the middle of that and it started to go over and planes and sailors were down in the water. Everybody would be shooting. Every third bullet was a tracer which was a light, a dummy, you know, but it showed where you were hitting and shooting and you could imagine what the sky looked like. This was where Tommy Bingham was killed, he was going up over the bank into these Japs pillars and so forth. The Marines would come up and go over and then they'd come up out of these holes, just shoot everybody down.

Anyway the Mt. Suribachi Flag was raised and we were in the harbor when that happened.

Then we went to Ellie Lou was an Island and it was a terrible battle, I don't think there was a live tree left. They bombed, strafed and burned, anytime the Marines tried to get on it the Japanese would come out, just like anthills and drive them back. They would shell it, bomb it and burn it again till they finally got a foot hold and went in and cleaned it out.

We got nearer Japan and every six miles there would be a ship, the curvature of the earth you could keep track of the ship about six miles out. Otherwise it would over and down the other side. So they had these destroyers that were spotters. They'd spot one here and one here and so they could any enemy activity up further. Well the kamikaze planes came in so often that they got to a point that we were about out of destroyers. (They were all sunk) It was our turn next. It got to a point where the DE, our Destroyer Escorts, which were a little smaller were to be the spotters. So we ended up doing that same thing. We were getting to the Japanese by that time. I know one raid that happened. A bunch of the bombers went back there and one loner came back and was right in head of us and said I'm running out of gas, I've got to ditch it. The skipper told him to land right smack in front of mejust a certain distance - he did and had his chute out but the water was so rough that the chute didn't ever collapse; every wave that would come would take him and drag him and by the time we got to him he was dead. So many things like that happened.

One pleasant thing on the way up to Naha Harbor, it was close to Japan, we were there but we couldn't anchor because of these kamikaze planes so the whole fleet was just moving back and forth in a pattern, because these Japanese planes would come up over and shwissss, so we were just kind of on the move.

I got a call by a light - Morse code, it was my little brother Duane, I knew he was on a Mine Sweeper but I didn't know where. But he had been there and they swept the mine and cleared it for us. He said I'm here, can I come over? I was so tickled. I asked the Skipper -- my little brother is here on a mine sweeper, can he come over? If he will bring his own little craft to get back and leave if we have to leave in a hurry, he can. So he came over and parked his little craft. There was only about 8 sailors on his mine sweeper. He came over and we visited and the best time all day long. I took one of my pillow cases and put oranges, apples, bananas and everything for him to take back. They didn't have a lot of storage for fresh fruits, fresh vegetables. It was such a pleasant surprise.

Right after that we ended up in Yokohama. We found out why — we didn't know where their airport was. It was the craziest thing. The airplanes would come and go and they would just disappear. What they had in this Yokohama Harbor, was a place underneath. They had dug underneath and their airport was underground. They would come and land and go right under ground.

When we entered there the Marines had gone in and all the gun placements were up here.

It was kind of eerie to look because they pointed right at you. But they had gone in there and rammed and jammed every gun emplacement. We went into Yokohama and everything was anchored there. Everything was okay. We could see all the battle wagons and the ships that had been sunk or damaged.

Then I went to Tokyo one day to view things and saw all the damage that had been done there.

KI: This was after the atom bomb?

Dan: This was after; it was at the close of the war. Right after that we headed home to San Francisco. When we got to San Francisco to de-commission the ship, I stayed with it till it was de-commissioned.

The only casualty we had was in San Francisco Bay after the war. We had been on leave and all six of our ships, Sister Ships, they were all DE's. We took turns taking people over with their little boats and this one boat, it was his turn; in the meantime, they had taken all the air tanks out to clean them and get them ready to go, you know. They said well it is our turn to do it, we'd better do it anyway. So they did. They went over to gather up and it holds about 16 sailors. They got over and picked this liberty party up. Course, half of it was covered with a tarp. The officers would get underneath and the sailors were in the back. Coming back, it was rough and it ended up turning that upside down. The eight officers went down with the boat, it was just like a lead weight. The eight sailors were saved. Our Chief Petty Officer was one of the officers. That was our only casualty. He was a pharmacist's mate. He was a real peach of a guy. That was really our only catastrophe. We were blessed.

KI: Can you tell me who your officers were and how it works in the Navy?

Dan: It's the Captain, the Executive Officer, then Lieutenant and so forth down the line. Skewes was our Captain. He'd been a Skipper of a destroyer and it was shot out from underneath him in Guadalcanal. He was kind of mad because he had been place on this little DE. He was a real good Skipper. Then Denzmore was our Executive Officer, he was the one that kind or ran things and organized. Our officer was Wilson. He was younger than all of us. We called them 90 day wonders.

He was a good little guy. He was over the S Division which was the store keepers and cooks and so forth. That was what I was in. Then they had officers over engineers and electrical and other things. GQ that was General Quarters. That's where I was in General Quarters in the radar shop. I was the Executive Officer's scribe.

The Executive Officer running the ship, I'd have to write backwards so he could he read it. I got so I could do pretty good. I don't know how I got to be the scribe. What a great experience it was. I was in Battlewagon and I knew every move that was happening. These guys watching the radar would say, we've got a boggy. A boggy was enemy. If it was friendly they had a certain sign that..... a boggy is such and such degree and they'd mark him and then I'd have to mark it so the executive officer could read it and see it.

Dan: One experience — I don't know how many more lives I'm going to have. This is another experience I had aboard ship. We were in a typhoon, 3 destroyers collapsed and were sunk. We were right next to the hole. I guess there about 1500 sailors that were drowned. During the

height of this storm, our main deck was completely covered with water, all of the time. They have these steel ladders going down. I had my wedding ring on and was ready to go, I'd wait for the ship to go up then I would dart into the hole before it would come back the other way. I took off and that ring ---- on my back I went onto the deck. I was down and every so forth there was a lifeline around the ship. I was on my back sliding and I reached up and grabbed this lifeline. I was over-board. I grabbed the lifeline and by that time it had rolled back and course the guys came and grabbed me and pulled me back in. (That's why I don't wear rings now.) Anyway, during this same storm (down by the Philippines) I said I'm not going to be downstairs and drown here. I thought we were going over. We had rolled so many times. I think the DE's can go in about 65 degrees before they go on over. A Destroyer can go about 75 degrees before they go on over and not come back.

I was downstairs - you're locked in down there. The hatches are closed. I said I'm not going to die down here, I'm going to go up so I can have a chance. I had a rubber life jacket on that was pumped then I had another jacket on besides. I went up and got on the "catwalk" which is about 10 foot above the main deck. I got started up there and the water was so high and the wind would come through about 130 miles an hour. It was like little bullets coming at, ripped my shirt completely off me, just tore it off me. I was wet from one end to the other. I got up by the Ensign, the flag, and the only thing still flying was canvas thing on the bottom, the flag was completely gone. I went up to the radio shack and got me a little corner and braced myself. One minute I was down the next I was up here. I had earphones on and I heard everything that went on. We were right smack in the middle of it. This was December 18, 1944. A couple days after my birthday.

This aircraft carrier was next to us, not far from us, course they are up here and just like corks. They were trying to get airplanes off the main deck and down the elevator, down below where they were protected. Well some of the planes were blown over into the hole and caught fire and sailors scooting off the edge of the main deck into the water. They are fighting fire, then the rest of the crew would line up, full length, underneath the main deck, where they were protected and they would have to run to balance the ship. When the ship would go down this way, they would have to run to run up the other way. When it would go the other way they would run back. They did that for, I don't know how many hours. Just to keep the ship from going down. There was a lot of deaths that didn't come through battle.

KI: What was Clara doing back here?

Dan: Clara was working for Utah Power and Light. She took my place. She moved back to Vernal from American Fork. She worked there all the time I was in the Service.

KI: Did you have children.

Dan: No. It was eight years before we had children. We had a lot of close calls in the Navy. When we were in Manus Island in the Pacific. We were hauling water, our convoy hauling water tanks from there up to the battle fields. We were down there and just before we got there, an ammunition ship was tied up and something happened and it blew up. Took that whole ship and everything around it. I don't know how many sailors were killed. It was just as were coming into the harbor. There was nothing left of the ship, nothing, no trace of it. Ships next to it were damaged.

KI: How do you feel when you see that loss of life?

Dan: It's a funny thing. I didn't think about death at all. I just went on my duty and— if you start thinking about that you could get really hyper. I just never thought about it, never.

Same time during this storm - this big convoy, which we were about 2000 yards away from them so you can imagine how big this convoy was, battle wagons, aircraft carriers, and so forth. Our name call came in and they said, is that you going such and such? Our Skipper said no, that's not us, we're going such and such way. Well, come to find out, it was us. Our radar antenna had got twisted a 180 degrees. We were going right straight back into the convoy in the opposite direction. We missed everybody.

Our mast is about 96 feet high. We had to climb the mast and turn that thing around and get it adjusted. I was part of the radar crew so I volunteered to go up. I didn't climb all the way up but I climbed that mast.

TAPE TWO

KI: Is there anything else you want to tell me about the war?

Dan: Oh there was a lot of things that went on. Just happy things when we got home. Clara was there to meet me in San Francisco. It was a great thing to be over and I disconnected myself from the service. Didn't stay in the Reserve or anything like that. Let me out.

I came back and got ready and went to school. This was in February, of course I was a little late to start with, going back there to start that second semester. I had to get home and leave. Clara couldn't leave the Power Company without giving so much notice. I found a little apartment in Iowa City.

KI: You told me you hitched-hiked back there.

Dan: Ya. Boy you don't hitch-hike anymore. I hitch-hiked back to Iowa City and found this little place, a dirty little place. We had one room. Our kitchen was not very big with just a door into it. Our bed came down out of the wall. Our bathroom was down the hall where a half a dozen people used it too.

Her mother came back to visit us. What a tight place.

Anyway right after that, we applied for a housing loan in the area of Cedar Avenue, the government had taken away - just low income - and cleared it off and made homes. We applied for a loan and told them the situation. This gal came and looked at it and said you won't be living here long, I'm moving you. We ended up there.

KI: Did Clara work?

Dan: Clara worked at a doctor's office. I had about a half dozen different jobs. I was a plain clothes man detective in a department store. A car parker, a Red Robin chain store, we used to inventory their inventory every month, about a ½ a dozen of us, we contracted with them. I painted every summer. I sent Clara home on the plane, because we were in the bucks when I was painting. I was making union wages, which was good wages at that time. We had a lot of good experiences and a lot of fun.

KI: Then you graduated and came back in 1951. Did you both just know that you were coming back to live in Vernal?

Dan: No. I had applied for 2 or 3 different places. I had taken my California Boards before and passed them. Then Dr. Ray Paul had this office over the show house, upstairs. He had borrowed money to go to school and he had to pay his debts. So right at that time it was for sale. I bought all his equipment and moved right into his office and I didn't have to do another thing, I was ready to operate right from day one, which I did.

I stayed there - in fact, Dr. Tyrrell Seager, Ray Spendlove and I built the clinic up here on 2nd West. They were downstairs and we just decided we'd build and move. So we built that - my first day at work was the day that President Kennedy was killed, 22nd of November. I remember that well. That's been 40 years we were there.

I practiced 36 years then I went into the legislature. I was in the City Council for 12 years. I was Republican Chairman for four years and on the State Republican Board for a couple of years then I decided to run. The funniest thing - people would ask me why don't you? I thought I don't want to do that. Then Clara and I were driving to Salt Lake and on the way there we went up - and I signed in. They said that no one had registered yet. I told them to hold it till I came home and talked to some people here and I would call them and let them know.

The people here said there is nobody running, we need to get somebody in besides Gayle [McKeachnie.] So it went from there. I went in 1986 and stopped in '94. I was there 8 years.

KI: When did you retire?

Dan: I retired in June 1987. I didn't do a lot from that January to June but I kept going. I sold it to Darrell Nelson.

KI: How many dentists were here when you first started to practice?

Dan: When I started - Oh, Gosh, there was Ray Paul, there was one 2 or 3 of us. On up on Main Street, one in the Coltharp Building. [Drs. Stevens and Shimmins]

KI: Can you tell me any particularly interesting event that happened while you were a dentist, as far as your work was concerned?

Dan: Yes there was a lot of things happened. A fellow came and I had removed — he was kind of slow of speech, good old solid worker. I pulled his teeth and sutured them up. Let him go and told him to come back in 3 or 4 days to have the sutures out. He came back and I took the sutures out and right after that he went over the beer parlor and ran into some of his old buddies from Randlett. He came back in a little while and stood in the door and said, "Why did you do it?" There was fire in his eyes. I said did what? You know what you did, why did you do it? That's all I could get out of him. I said you go sit down till get through with patient and I will have you come in.

Cliff McCoy was there, I had just dismissed him, and he knew something was happening. This was a big raw-boned guy, so Cliff stayed there. To make a long story short, I said, let's start over and you tell me what happened. You know what you did. I said all I did was take the sutures out, everything was healed up.

That's what you did, that's what you did. I said, I did what? You took my testins out.
Ohhhh

I said you mean testicles? Yes, that's what you did. He wasn't drunk, he was mad. I said let's go get Dr. Ray and we'll check you right now. We went to there and Dr. Ray was gone. Well, out on the street he raved and hollered, I'll get you run out of town, you will never practice a day of dentistry. A day or two Gib came in and asked if this guy come back to see you? I said yes, you son-of-a-gun. He told me what they had done, they were all over in the beer parlor telling him all these stories and I thought he'd be back. These guys had told him, this is what happens when they take the sutures out, boy, they just take everything.

You want another one? Harry Saunders came in and wanted all his teeth pulled but I'm not having a needle. I said okay. We'll get Dr. Young over here. He was an outdoor person, and they usually take more antheses. Dr. Young came over and brought 2 or 3 cans of ether, what he thought would be enough. We proceeded and I was removing another tooth or two and had to suture up and by that time, Dr. Young said you better hurry, I'm out of ether, I don't have anymore. I was removing a tooth and had to suture up, he started to squirm and pretty soon he was going down the chair a little more and I was following, pretty soon he was down on his back, on the floor and was on my knees doing the last of the job. His wife was sitting right here. Flora was just hooting. She couldn't get over it. I got it all over and told Flora we were done. Well, Harry came too and we just let him lie there for a few minutes. But we just had a good laugh over that.

KI: Did people take care of their teeth very well?

Dan: Not too well. We had to do a lot of education. People were having them pulled rather than having them fixed. I think we did a lot of good with the education.

KI: Clara was a member of the Auxiliary, right?

Dan: Yes. She was the president of the auxiliary. She worked with the County and the State. We did a lot for our profession , tried to get people educated.

KI: Do you want to go through some of your civic involvements?

Dan: I went through five years - from being secretary to president, course there was another year of past president. This was in the Utah State Dental Association.

Then I was ADA delegate a couple of years. We got a letter here, addressed to Clara from Vice President Hubert Humphery. We were back there to a ADA National Convention. Mr. Humphrey was there and I think Clara wined and dined him. He was a real nice gentleman, sent her a nice letter.

KI: What years were you in the City Council?

Dan: 1956 to 1968 - 12 years. I was president of the Knife and Fork, March of Dimes Director, Boy Scouts Chairman. Lions Club, President of League of Cities and Towns 1966. That was a pleasant experience.

KI: Who was the City Manager?

Dan: Buell Bennett. His daughter is married to Barney Sessions. [Lloy]

KI: Who was the mayor, did they change while you were there?

Dan: Ralph Siddoway, Les Miracle.

At that time, it used to be that the cemetery fund was a perpetual fund and it just kept growing and finally the state came in and said that's got to be just a regular budget affair. So I made the motion to make the curb and cement walks around the Vernal Cemetery. While Emery Johnson was still here we built that memorial plaque down at the east gate. Now the perpetual fund comes out of the general fund. That's where the supply of money that had accumulated all this time went to start with was the betterment and develop the cemetery and not drive through mud.

KI: Can you think of any big controversial issues that went on here during the years were active in the community? Did you live through the Echo Park Dam thing?

Dan: Yes. We all wrote letters and tried our best.

The Red Fleet Dam I fought for that. The last second of the session we got it past and become a State Park, which is nice. I supported the bill for the "work-over wells". 1988-90 there about. The oil wells were going dry and to rejuvenate those, they could go in for a certain amount and rejuvenate them and get more oil, but it took some state money. Over the years they would be able to pay it back. So the State lent ---- allowed them \$50,000 or something a well, to rejuvenate them. It paid off.

Then there was the RS-2477 - the private property bill closing the roads, that has become quite controversially now.

KI: Did you go on your mission after you had finished in the legislature?

Dan: Yes. Clara and I went on a mission in 1995-96. The Family History Center in the Joseph Smith Building, in Salt Lake. It was a great experience. We met a lot of people from all over the world. They say that less than 50% of the people that go in there for genealogy are LDS. So the majority of the people are not members.

I had one experience -- a lady came in -- we had different assignments and I was downstairs on the cash register. This woman came up and had a stack of different things and she paid me for that. Said she was doing work for her sister; the next day she came in again with another big stack and she gave me a check for \$250 - man, I said, what does your husband do? Well, I'm not LDS, my sister is and I'm just doing some work for her. It's such a good service I just want to help out.

I asked again what does your husband do?

Well, I'm not married.

What do you do?

I'm executive officer in a computer company back east.

I got her name and everything and of course to do something like you have to go through the

“higher-ups” so they can write a thank you letter and so forth.

What an experience - to have people just off the cuff come and give that kind of money. Her printing was \$22 and \$23 besides. She just had reams of it.

We went another six months in 2002 during the Olympics, we went to the same place. That was neat to be right in the middle of the Olympics. Down Main Street, the only thing that traveled was the Trax. The rest of the road was walking space and it was covered from wall to wall, going both directions. You would see all these different groups, from different countries, dressed in their Olympics uniforms.

Our daughter, Kathy, worked for the Olympics selling badges, and she was right around the corner from us and she stayed with us during that time.

KI: Speaking of Kathy, you need to tell me who your children are and where they are.

Dan: Dana and Don [Gull] our oldest daughter, they're in China on a BYU program - over there teaching English. Tygin is about 60 miles south of Peking. They are having an experience of their life. They aren't teaching young people but teaching people with PhDs. and graduate people. They know the English but the association with -shoes - telephone and so forth. Dana took a catalog and cut out pictures to make the association with. She wrote by E Mail that she had been invited to teach English to the employees of this Five Star rated hotel, near them, for the use of their amenities. Dana and Don like to exercise, so this is working out great. Their children are all married and are all over. A couple of them in Connecticut, one San Diego, one in Los Angeles area, one in Salt Lake, all have good jobs.

KI: Were they already employees of BYU.

Dan: No. Don was director at the Dessert Book Company in Salt Lake for awhile, he was also chairman of the Hale Theater. He kind of retired, sold their home and moved up to Oakley where their cabin is and decided to volunteer and do community things. They got hooked with BYU.

Kathy and Alllen [Mashburn] you know about her. She has had more experiences than I have.

Quentin [and Susie] he's working for Hewlett-Packard in Loveland, Colorado. He's been there for 19 years. He has a family of 6 and his oldest boy is studying pre-dentistry right now. That is the only one that is following their grandad.

Cami [Steve Hardy] is back in Solom, Ohio, just out of Cleveland. She's a CPA and works for a financial planning company. When she was living back in Connecticut she answered an ad and said she could work at home. She got the job and has been there for 10 years and they just won't let her go.

She flies back to New York every month till this month and she now flies to Chicago.

KI: How many grandchildren do you have?

Dan: 19 grandchildren and one that has passed away. 19 great and two more on the way. Zion is growing.

